

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 ARAE-00 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-10 TRSE-00

EUR-12 CU-04 SIL-01 LAB-04 FTC-01 JUSE-00 STR-04

CIEP-02 /116 W

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P R 302129Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TTCRUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9921

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 1756

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT,HO

SUBJ: REACTIONS TO GOH CHANGES

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1736

1. MODERATE EL DIA OF APRIL 23 PRINTED A RESOLUTION
OF THE HONDURAN PRESS ASSOCIATION WHICH CALLED FOR

PUNISHMENT OF THOSE WHO ACCEPTED UB BRIBES, THE
MAINTENANCE OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND A RETURN TO
CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS.

2. THE HEADLINES OF CONSERVATIVE LA
NOTICIA OF APRIL 29
READ "INVESTIGATING COMMISSION KNOWS BANK ACCOUNT
NUMBER". THE RELATED STORY CITES "INFORMED CIRCLES"
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IN WASHINGTON AS SAYING THAT UB PROVIDED THE HONDURAN

INVESTIGATING COMMISSION WITH THE NUMBER OF THE SWISS
BANK ACCOUNT INTO WHICH WAS DEPOSITED THE \$1.25 MILLION

BRIBE. LA NOTICIA ADDS THAT THE COMMISSION ITSELF IS
MAKING ABSOLUTELY NO COMMENT.

3. LA NOTICIA ALSO PRINTED AN INTERVIEW WITH CARLOS
ROBERTO REINA, THE LEADER OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEFT
FACTION OF THE LIBERTY PARTY. REINA IDENTIFIED THE
LT. COLONELS' GROUP AS HOLDING REAL POLITICAL POWER
IN HONDURAS AND SAID THAT MELGAR HAS THEIR CONFIDENCE.
HE ADDED THAT THE NEWLY NAMED MINISTERS WERE CAPABLE
PEOPLE AND SAID THAT FONMIN GALVEZ WAS A PARTICULARLY
GOOD CHOICE. REINA SAID THAT HIS GROUP WAS PREPARING
A POSITION PAPER OUTLINING THEIR VIEWS OF THE CURRENT
GOVERNMENT. HE FEELS THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT FULFILLS
ITS RESPONSIBILITIES PROPERLY IT WILL ENJOY THE PEOPLES'
SUPPORT.

4. CONSERVATIVE LA PRENSA OF APRIL 30 COVERED THE
APRIL 29 SWEARING-IN OF COLONEL POLICARPO PAZ GARCIA
AS THE NEW COMMANDER OF THE HONDURAN ARMED FORCES. PAZ
SWORE TO SUPPORT MELGAR COMPLETELY AND SAID THAT THE
MILITARY IS UNITED BEHIND THE CHIEF OF STATE.

5. LA PRENSA'S LEAD EDITORIAL WAS ENTITLED "THE
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, AGRARIAN REFORM AND THE ARMED
FORCES." LA PRE IA SAYS THAT WHEN LOPEZ TOOK POWER BY
A COUP IN DECEMBER, 1972, HE PROMISED NATIONAL UNITY AND
HAPPINESS FOR THE PEOPLE. HOWEVER, AFTER MORE THAN TWO
YEARS OF GOVERNMENT BY LOPEZ AND HIS CABINET, "DESCRIBED
BY A GRINGO NAMED MARASCIULO, REPRESENTATIVE OF AID
(FORMER DIRECTOR) AS THE BEST CABINET OF ALL THE
CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES," THE PEOPLE ARE LESS
HAPPY AND MORE DIVIDED THEN EVER BEFORE. LA PRENSA
SAYS THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO PROMISED TO
CARRY OUT THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND CARRY OUT
JUST AGRARIAN REFORM. THE PAPER EXPRESSES THE HOPE
THAT THE HONDURAN PEOPLE ARE NOT DEFRAUDED BY THEIR
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GOVERNMENT AS THEY WERE BY ITS PREDECESSOR.

6. LA PRENSA ALSO CARRIES A STORY DATED MEXICO (AP)
WHICH APPEARED IN EXCELSIOR THAT QUOTES EX-PRESIDENT
CRUZ AS SAYING THAT THE HONDURAN CONSTITUTION SHOULD BE
AMENDED TO PERMIT EXPROPRIATION OF THE U.S. BANANA
COMPANIES WITHOUT COMPENSATION. ACCORDING TO REPORT,
HE SAID THAT COMPANIES HAVE CONTINUALLY INTERVENED IN

THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRIES WHERE THEY HAVE OPERATED.

7. LA PRENSA CITES "WELL INFORMED SOURCES" AS SAYING THAT THE HONDURAN INVESTIGATING COMMISSION HAD SECURED VISAS TO VISIT SWITZERLAND, ITALY, FRANCE AND THE U.K. THESE SAME SOURCES ARE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE UB BRIBERY PAYMENTS WERE MADE THROUGH COMPANY SUBSIDIARIES IN EUROPE.

8. LIBERAL TIEMPO OF APRIL 30 HEADLINED ITS PAGE TO COVERAGE OF THE GOH INVESTIGATING COMMISSION SAYING, "USG CONFIRMS THE BRIBERY OF HONDURAN OFFICIALS." HOWEVER, THE STORY SUPPORTS THE HEADLINE WITH ONLY THE STATEMENT, "IT IS KNOWN THAT THE USG HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT THE PAYMENTS WERE MADE TO HONDURAN OFFICIALS BUT THERE ARE NO ADDITIONAL DETAILS."

9. TIEMPO ALSO QUOTED STATEMENTS MADE BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE BROADCAST BY VOA APRIL 25. TIEMPO SAID THAT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAMENTED THE EPISODE BUT THAT IT HAD BEEN USEFUL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO DEFINE ITS POLICY ON MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES.

10. CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR GAVE ADDRESS TO NATION AT 12:30 P.M. APRIL 30. MAIN POINTS OF SPEECH WILL BE SENT SEPTEL.

11. MAY 1 DEMONSTRATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE MANY DIATRIBES AGAINST MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES AND USG.
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STUDENT AND CERTAIN LABOR GROUPS ARE PREPARING TO EMPHASIZE THESE THEMES DURING THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES.
SANCHEZ

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